

REMARKS

Claims 55 and 60 have been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter that applicants consider as their invention. Specifically, the language has been modified to clarify that, when traffic is large, adjusted data are transmitted to a terminal device while at the same time unadjusted (original) data are stored in a file device, for example for later (delayed) use. The amendment is supported by the specification, at page 28, lines 2-14, quoted below. It should be understood, though, that the following is provided merely as one example of an embodiment of the present invention, and not intended to limit the scope of the claims:

The stream distribution server 2 converts the stream data into the image at the SD level by the filtering processing of the stream filter 26 and distributes to the terminal device 3 when judging that the transmission of the image at HD level is difficult. At this time, the stream distribution server 2 temporarily stores the image at the HD level in the file device 4, and notifies the terminal device 3 a predetermined message. The message includes, for example, "the quality of the program under the distribution is adjusted because of the band limitation of the local area network," and "an original program at the HD level is being recorded simultaneously" etc.

The claimed feature reflected in the amendment is not disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references. Specifically, Humpleman (USPN 5,940,387) describes a network system that may include various end user devices, such as digital compressed (MPEG) and uncompressed video equipment. (Col. 3, line 66-Col. 4, line 13.) Humpleman, however, is silent as to adjusting original data based on the network load, nor transmitting any adjusted data to a terminal device while at the same time storing the original (unadjusted) data in a file device. Ito et al. (USPN 6,014,693) describes a network system that receives original compressed data, extracts data from the original data in accordance with a measurement result of the network load, and transmits the extracted data at a specific transfer bit rate to a client. (Abstract.) Ito et al., however, is again silent as to transmitting the extracted data to a client while at the same time storing the original data in a file device.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 55 and 60, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,

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